Off-take of Foodgrains Under Open Market Prices

1852. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is negligible off-take of foodgrains under the present open market prices fixed by Government; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government are contemplating to export the surplus stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The comparative position of sale of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) of wheat for the last three years is indicated as below:

Figs. In lakh tones

1999-2000 April to October	2000-2001 April to October	2001-2002 April to October
7.62	0.49	10.86

There is no open sale of rice. The rice procured under relaxed specification (URS) is being liquidated through tender sale.

(b) Government has permitted the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to offer to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and private parties upto 70 lakh tones of wheat (including 20 lakh M.T. of wheat products) and 30 lakh tones of rice from Central Pool for the purposes of export during the year 2001-2002.